a) reaction of a rapamycin having an activated coupling group with an immunogenic protein to produce an immunogenic conjugate,

b) administration of said immunogenic conjugate to an appropriate animal species to effect immunogenic challenge and recovery of antibody-producing cells sensitized to said conjugate,

c) immortalization of said antibody-producing cells, and

d) recovery of monoclonal antibody from a selected immortalized cell line thus established.

19. (new) A monoclonal antibody of claim 15 wherein the rapamycin is (i) rapamycin; or (ii) a 40-O-alkylated rapamycin, preferably wherein the 40-O-alkyl substituent is selected from hydroxyalkyl, hydroxyalkoxyalkyl, acylaminoalkyl, or aminoalkyl.

20. (new) A monoclonal antibody of claim 19 wherein the rapamycin is selected from

i) 40-O-(2-hydroxyethyl)-rapamycin,

ii) 40-O-(3-hydroxypropyl)-rapamycin,

iii) 40-O-[2-(2-hydroxy)ethoxy]ethyl-rapamycin, and

iv) 40-O-(2-acetarninoethyl)-rapamycin).

21. (new) A monoclonal antibody of claim 15 capable of distinguishing between (i) rapamycin; and (ii) a 40-O-alkylated rapamycin, preferably wherein the 40-O-alkyl substituent is selected from hydroxyalkyl, hydroxyalkoxyalkyl, acylaminoalkyl, or aminoalkyl.

22. (new) An immunogenic conjugate comprising a rapamycin portion and a protein portion.

23. (new) An immunogenic conjugate of claim 22 which is produced by reacting a protein with a rapamycin derivative bearing an activated coupling group.

24. (new) An immunogenic conjugate of claim 23 wherein the rapamycin derivative is

i) 40-O-succinimidooxysuccinyl-rapamycin, p.13

ii) 28-O-succinimidooxysuccinyl-rapamycin, or p.14

iii) 28-O-(succinimidooxysuccinyl)-40-O-(2-hydroxyethyl)-rapamycin. p.15

25. (new) A rapamycin having an activated coupling group.

26. (new) A rapamycin of claim 25 selected from